

# **HATE CRIME**

## **DEFINITION**

A hate crime, also known as a bias crime, is a criminal offense committed against a person, property, or society which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin.

## Background

In response to a growing concern about hate crimes, Congress, on April 23, 1990, enacted the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990. The Attorney General designated the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program to develop a hate crime data collection system for its voluntary law enforcement agency data participants which would include data "about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity." In September 1994, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act amended the Hate Crime Statistics Act to add disabilities, both physical and mental, as factors that could be considered a basis for hate crimes. The disability bias data collection began in January 1997.

Hate crimes are not separate, distinct crimes, but rather traditional offenses motivated by the offender's bias; therefore, hate crime data can be collected by capturing additional information about offenses currently being reported to the UCR Program. Included are the offenses of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter; forcible rape; aggravated assault, simple assault, and intimidation; robbery; burglary; larceny-theft; motor vehicle theft; arson; and destruction, damage, or vandalism of property.

Hate crime data are submitted to the FBI on a Quarterly Hate Crime Report which consists of a quarterly summary and an incident report for each bias incident. Agencies participating in the National Incident-Based Reporting System are able to include the hate crime data element in their submissions via magnetic tape.

The following statistics are a representation of the data received from law enforcement agencies that provided 1 to 12 months of hate crime reports during 1998. More detailed information concerning characteristics of hate crime can be found in the UCR annual publication *Hate Crime Statistics*.

## Nature

In 1998, there were 7,755 hate crime incidents reported to the FBI. Of the 7,755 reported incidents, 4,321 were motivated by racial bias; 1,390 by religious bias; 1,260 by sexual-orientation bias; 754 by ethnicity/national origin bias; 25 by disability bias; and 5 by multiple biases. The 7,755 incidents involved 9,235 separate offenses, 9,722 victims, and 7,489 known offenders. (See Table 2.37.)

Table 2.37

### Number of Incidents, Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders by Bias Motivation, 1998

	Number of			
	Incidents	Offenses	Victims <sup>1</sup>	Known Offenders <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,755</b>	<b>9,235</b>	<b>9,722</b>	<b>7,489</b>
<b>Single-Bias Incidents</b>				
<b>Race:</b>	<b>4,321</b>	<b>5,360</b>	<b>5,514</b>	<b>4,626</b>
Anti-White	792	989	1,003	1,131
Anti-Black	2,901	3,573	3,663	2,999
Anti-American Indian/ Alaskan Native	52	66	66	61
Anti-Asian/Pacific Islander	293	359	372	245
Anti-Multi-Racial Group	283	373	410	190
<b>Religion:</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>536</b>
Anti-Jewish	1,081	1,145	1,235	394
Anti-Catholic	61	62	65	15
Anti-Protestant	59	61	62	31
Anti-Islamic	21	22	23	12
Anti-Other Religious Group	125	138	288	71
Anti-Multi-Religious Group	41	45	45	12
Anti-Atheism/Agnosticism/etc.	2	2	2	1
<b>Sexual Orientation:</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>1,408</b>
Anti-Male Homosexual	850	972	1,005	1,048
Anti-Female Homosexual	223	265	270	207
Anti-Homosexual	158	170	177	129
Anti-Heterosexual	12	13	17	7
Anti-Bisexual	17	19	19	17
<b>Ethnicity/National Origin:</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>863</b>
Anti-Hispanic	482	595	620	580
Anti-Other Ethnicity/ National Origin	272	324	336	283
<b>Disability:</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>42</b>
Anti-Physical	13	14	14	19
Anti-Mental	12	13	13	23
<b>Multiple-Bias Incidents<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>

<sup>1</sup> The term *victim* may refer to a person, business, institution, or society as a whole.

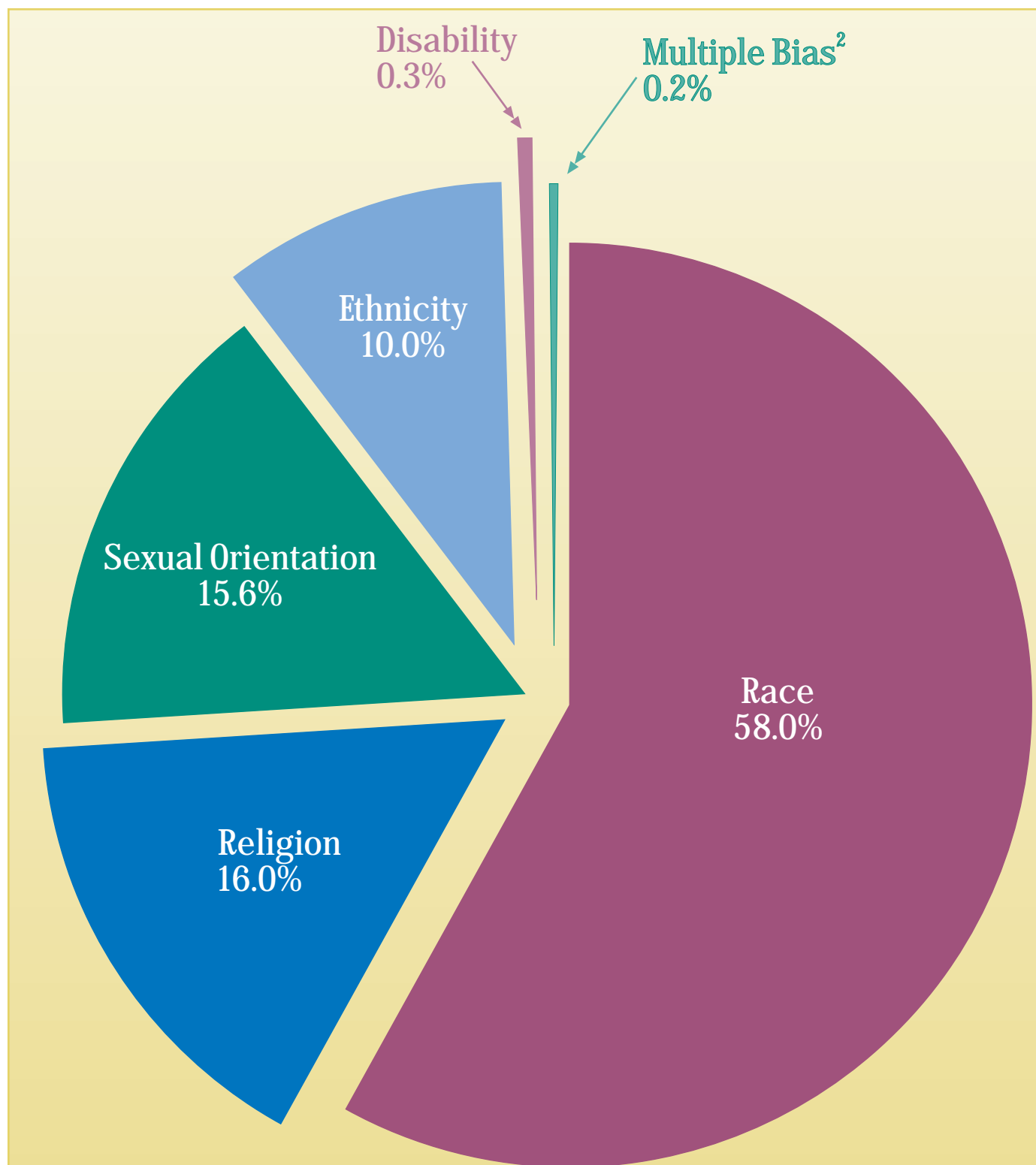
<sup>2</sup> The term *known offender* does not imply that the identity of the suspect is known, but only that an attribute of the suspect is identified which distinguishes him/her from an unknown offender.

<sup>3</sup> There were 5 multiple-bias incidents. Within these there were 15 offenses, 17 victims, and 14 known offenders.

Figure 2.18

## Bias-Motivated Offenses 1998

### Percent Distribution<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Due to rounding, percentages do not add to 100.

<sup>2</sup>This category represents offenses associated with multiple-bias incidents.

Crimes against persons accounted for over 68 percent of hate crime offenses reported. Crimes against property accounted for over 31 percent, while less than one percent were crimes against society. Of the crimes against persons, intimidation accounted for 55 percent, while simple assault and aggravated assault represented 27 percent and 17 percent, respectively. Destruction, damage, or vandalism of property was the most frequently reported offense of crimes against property, accounting for nearly 88 percent of that category. Of all hate crimes, intimidation was the single most frequently reported offense, accounting for almost 38 percent of the total. Following were destruction, damage, or vandalism of property, 28 percent; simple assault, 18 percent; and aggravated assault, 12 percent. (See Table 2.38.)

In 1998, racial bias represented the largest percentage of bias-motivated offenses. Of the 9,235 reported offenses, 5,360 were motivated by racial bias; 1,475 by religious bias; 1,439 by sexual-orientation bias; 919 by ethnicity/national origin bias; and 27 by disability bias. Fifteen offenses were associated with multiple-bias incidents. (See Table 2.37 and Figure 2.18.)

Table 2.38

**Number of Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders  
by Offense, 1998**

	Number of		
	Offenses	Victims <sup>1</sup>	Known Offenders <sup>2</sup>
Total	9,235	9,722	7,890 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Crimes against persons:</b>	<b>6,305</b>	<b>6,305</b>	<b>6,474</b>
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	13	13	22
Forcible rape	11	11	16
Aggravated assault	1,084	1,084	1,590
Simple assault	1,706	1,706	2,249
Intimidation	3,488	3,488	2,595
Other <sup>4</sup>	3	3	2
<b>Crimes against property:</b>	<b>2,905</b>	<b>3,392</b>	<b>1,376</b>
Robbery	118	134	243
Burglary	99	111	71
Larceny-theft	81	86	71
Motor vehicle theft	3	3	2
Arson	50	202	27
Destruction/damage/vandalism	2,549	2,851	959
Other <sup>4</sup>	5	5	3
<b>Crimes against society<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>

<sup>1</sup> The term *victim* may refer to a person, business, institution, or society as a whole.

<sup>2</sup> The term *known offender* does not imply that the identity of the suspect is known, but only that an attribute of the suspect is identified which distinguishes him/her from an unknown offender.

<sup>3</sup> The actual number of known offenders is 7,489. (See Table 2.37.) Some offenders, however, may be responsible for more than one offense and are, therefore, counted more than once in this table.

<sup>4</sup> Includes offenses other than those listed that are collected in NIBRS.

In 1998, 65 percent of the 9,722 victims were targets of crimes against persons. (See Table 2.38.) Nearly 6 of every 10 victims were attacked because of their race, with bias against blacks accounting for 38 percent of the total. (See Table 2.37.)

Law enforcement agencies reported 7,489 known offenders associated with the 7,755 incidents recorded in 1998. (See Table 2.37.) Of the known offenders, 6,474 were connected with crimes against persons, and 1,376 were associated with crimes against property. Thirty-five percent of the 7,489 known offenders were involved with the offense of intimidation. (See Table 2.38.) Of the known offenders, 66 percent were white, and 17 percent were black. (See Table 2.39.)

Table 2.39

**Number of Known Offenders  
by Race, 1998**

	Number of known offenders
Total	7,489
<b>Suspected offender's race:</b>	
White	4,970
Black	1,303
American Indian/Alaskan Native	54
Asian/Pacific Islander	144
Multi-Racial Group	359
Unknown Race	659

## Law Enforcement Participation

The law enforcement community recognizes that valid information is central to developing effective measures to deal with hate crime. Data for 1998 were supplied by 10,461 law enforcement agencies in 46 states and the District of Columbia representing over 214 million United States inhabitants or over 79 percent of the Nation's population. (See Table 2.40.)

Of the agencies that participated in the hate crime program, 17 percent reported that at least one hate crime occurred in their jurisdiction, while the other 83 percent reported that none occurred. While agency participation in the hate crime program is not complete, their reports offer perspectives on the general nature of hate crime occurrences.

Table 2.40

### Agency Hate Crime Reporting by State, 1998

Participating states	Number of participating agencies	Population covered	Agencies submitting incident reports	Total number of incidents reported
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,461</b>	<b>214,226,549</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>7,755</b>
Arizona	90	4,441,014	27	283
Arkansas	193	2,533,761	2	3
California	719	32,651,387	239	1,749
Colorado	233	3,970,717	39	128
Connecticut	94	2,719,192	48	109
Delaware	50	562,068	9	19
District of Columbia	1	523,000	1	2
Florida	464	14,826,670	63	179
Georgia	58	1,052,723	10	34
Idaho	120	1,220,792	26	58
Illinois	73	4,891,615	68	277
Indiana	150	3,717,036	18	50
Iowa	218	2,668,398	0	0
Kansas	1	329,179	1	54
Kentucky	264	2,941,256	19	45
Louisiana	134	2,789,979	7	10
Maine	133	1,219,585	17	57
Maryland	147	5,130,893	32	282
Massachusetts	177	4,352,318	98	431
Michigan	546	6,766,382	152	384
Minnesota	72	2,448,133	72	248
Mississippi	90	1,294,255	3	3
Missouri	212	4,092,986	24	118
Montana	77	709,382	12	22
Nebraska	202	1,342,201	13	52
Nevada	35	1,747,000	9	60
New Hampshire	57	472,857	9	16
New Jersey	565	8,115,000	255	757
New Mexico	59	1,121,146	5	31
New York	500	18,170,860	33	776
North Carolina	434	7,451,189	18	39
North Dakota	81	495,030	2	2
Ohio	344	7,394,669	62	172
Oklahoma	25	1,317,563	25	57
Oregon	167	3,264,432	21	93
Pennsylvania	1,127	11,744,149	31	168
Rhode Island	46	988,000	10	29
South Carolina	300	3,830,806	40	94
South Dakota	76	567,373	7	19
Tennessee	260	3,085,684	30	58
Texas	931	19,731,597	97	300
Utah	101	1,829,393	32	66
Vermont	37	418,582	9	13
Virginia	415	6,791,000	45	160
Washington	238	5,520,307	51	221
West Virginia	112	708,363	16	21
Wyoming	33	266,627	3	6

